

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ZAIRE SEEKS A LITTLE HELP FROM ITS FRIENDS

FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA HAS GIVEN AMBASSADOR CUTLER A
STRAIGHTFORWARD AND URGENT PITCH ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT
MOBUTU:

--THE BRAZZAVILLE AGREEMENT WITH THE MPLA WAS A PRACTI-
CAL ACCOMMODATION TO THE SHIFT IN CENTRAL AFRICAN POWER
BALANCE.

--THE ACCOMMODATION HAS BOUGHT TIME IN WHICH TO MODERN-
IZE ZAIRE'S ARMED FORCES TO COUNTER THE THREAT FROM
ANGOLA.

--ZAIRE'S "OLD FRIENDS" SHOULD REACTIVATE THE CONSULTA-
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TIVE GROUP AND MOVE QUICKLY TO SUPPORT ZAIRE'S AND

ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC STABILIZATION EFFORTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE NGUZA IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION BY STRESSING THE NEED FOR A COORDINATED EFFORT, AND WE CAN ONLY ENCOURAGE THE DEPARTMENT TO REDOUBLE ITS

EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS OUR ALLIES TO ASSURE CLOSE COORDINATION. ON NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA, WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT NGUZA'S BELIEF THAT LITTLE TIME REMAINS TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING OTHER THAN A VIOLENT RESULT. (CONFIDENTIAL) KINSHASA 1927, 3/4.)

2. FRANCO-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS ARE WARMING UP

A FRENCH MFA OFFICIAL BRIEFED EMBASSY PARIS ON FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES' VISIT TO LISBON, DURING WHICH HE:

--DELIVERED A LETTER FROM GISCARD AGREEING IN PRINCIPLE TO OFFER MODEST BILATERAL ECONOMIC AID; AND

--AGREED TO ANNUAL FRANCO-PORTUGUESE CONSULTATIONS AT THE MINISTERIAL AND POLITICAL DIRECTORS' LEVELS.

THE FRENCH RETURNED TO PARIS WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT A RIGHT-WING COUP IN LISBON SEEMS UNLIKELY FOR THE MOMENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE RIGHT IS LIKELY TO DO WELL IN THE APRIL ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, THE CHOICE OF THE NEXT PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT IS STILL UP IN THE AIR AND THE QUAI SEES NO FRONT RUNNERS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 6543, 3/4.) KISSINGER

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